

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DRC-01

(ISO) W

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R 141710Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3280

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

BRUSSELS, FRANKFURT AND PARIS FOR FAA

REF: ROME 1778

1. CIVILAVIA BOARD OF INQUIRY ON JANUARY 28 INCIDENT INVOLVING PA 28 N-15217 HELD FIRST MEETING FEBRUARY 13 WITH DR. CARLO ARESU OF CIVILAVIA AS CHAIRMAN. OTHER GOI PARTICIPANTS WERE ING. GIORGIO SACCO (ITALIAN AIR REGISTRY), CAPT, GIUSEPPE VAINA (AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICE), COL. GINO DOMENICI (CIVILAVIA, FLIGHT SAFELY), AND DR. FRANCESCO CARNASSALE (CIVILAVIA, FLIGHT SAFETY). EMBOFF PAUL L. LAASE AND ERHARD KROLL FROM FRG EMBASSY ROME ALSO ATTENDED.

2. ON BASIS INFO TO DATE, THERE WERE NO RPT NO EYEWITNESSES TO CRASH AND TWO-DAY SEARCH BY AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS FAILED FIND ANY TRACE OF WRECKAGE. GOI MAKING FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON PONZA TO TRY TO FIND EYEWITNESSES AND WILL INTERVIEW HARBORMASTER'S OFFICE AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CIVITAVECCHIA (WHICH PICKED UP MAYDAY CALL AT 1832Z JANUARY 28).

3. GOI AUTHORITIES UNABLE IDENTIFY POSITIVELY ANY OF THREE OCCUPANTS SUBJECT AIRCRAFT, SINCE THEY DID NOT RPT NOT CHECK THROUGH CUSTOMS/PASSPORT CONTROL AT EITHER ZURICH OR ROME/CIAMPINO WHEN THEY REFUELED. (FLIGHT APPARENTLY ORIGINATED AT SAARBRUKEN). SHELL ATTENDANT WHO REFUELED AIRCRAFT AND WATCHED DEPARTURE STATES THREE PERSONS ON BOARD AT TAKEOFF. THEY ARE BELIEVED TO BE EDMUND HARTKOPF, BERND HEVEMEIER, AND SERGEI BARANSKY, ALL GERMAN NATIONALS. GERMAN EMBASSY ASKING FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER INFO IN ORDER CONFIRM IDENTITY.

4. FLIGHT PLAN FILED PRIOR TAKEOFF, HOWEVER, LISTS ON "HAWKE" AS PILOT IN COMMAND AND WAS INITIALED J R, WHICH INCONSISTENT WITH NAMES ABOVE. RECEIPT FOR FUEL MADE OUT TO EDMUND BARTKOPF BUT SIGNATURE APPEARS TO BE HEVEVEIER. DESCRIPTION OF PILOT GIVEN BY SHELL ATTENDANT DOES NOT FIT HARTKOPF. EMBOFF NOTED SEVERAL CORRECTIONS IN FLIGHT PLAN, OBVIOUSLY TECHNICAL MISTAKES MADE BY SOMEONE UNFAMILIAR WITH PROCEDURES..LOG OF TOWER/AIRCRAFT CONVERSATION UPON TAKEOFF ALSO REFLECTS LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF PROPER PROCEDURES.

5. PILOT DESCRIBED AS ABOUT 180 CM HEIGHT, 100 KILOS WEIGHT, BLOND HAIR, BEARDED, FAIRLY YOUNG LOOKING, WELL BUILT, AND FLUENT IN ITALIAN. HE TOLD SHELL ATTENDANT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY LIVED THREE (3) YEARS IN SWITZERLAND. ONE PASSENGER DESCRIBED AS ABOUT 190 CM AND 80 KILOS, DARK BROWN HAIR. OTHER PASSENGER DESCRIBED ONLY AS "SMALLER."

6. AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY SOLD BY AIRSPEED INTERNATIONAL SALES (REGISTERED US OWNER) TO TWO GERMAN NATIONALS -- DR. LOTHOR HABERSTOCK AND EDMUND HARTKOPF -- LAST SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER BUT REGISTRATION APPARENTLY NEVER TRANSFERRED.

7. EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF FAA WASHINGTON COULD PROVIDE COMPLETE OWNERSHIP HISTORY OF SUBJECT AIRCRAFT. INFO BY ANY ADDRESSEE WHICH WOULD SHED LIGHT ON APPARENT IMPROPER REGISTRATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED. COULD FAA FRANKFURT AND FAA WASHINGTON CHECK TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER FAA PILOT'S CERTIFICATE EVER ISSUED TO HEVERMEIER OR BARANSKY? DOES DESCRIPTION PARA 5 ABOVE RING ANY BELLS? DO ANY ADDRESSEES HAVE ANY OTHER INFO WHICH MIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE USEFUL IN INVESTIGATION?

8. BOARD OF INQUIRY WILL RECONVENE AT ARESU'S CALL WHEN FURTHER INFO FROM SWISS, GERMAN, US AND ITALIAN SOURCES IS AVAILABLE. GOI IN FEBRUARY 9 MESSAGE TO FAA AND MTSB HAS FORMALLY INVITED USG PARTICIPATION. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FAA FRANKFURT REPRESENTATION AT NEXT MEETING IN VIEW OF SOMEWHAT SUSPICIOUS NATURE OF FACTS DEVELOPED TO DATE.VOLPE

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